



# 2014–15 Proposal for MAMIE D. LEE AND SHARPE HEALTH

Beginning in August 2014, assign the students from Mamie D. Lee and Sharpe Health to River Terrace Campus.



River Terrace

## Rationale for Relocating Mamie D. Lee and Sharpe Health ...

- Create a model academic program for students with significant disabilities in DCPS.
- Provide a state-of-the-art program space to support the academic program for students of Sharpe and Lee.
- Effectively utilize resources by combining two schools with enrollments under 100 students.
- Allow students to attend school at a location closer to their homes.
- Increase compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Decrease number of due process complaints and nonpublic placements.

## What Does This Mean for My Child?

### When will students be reassigned?

Eligible students at Mamie D. Lee and Sharpe Health will attend school at the current River Terrace Elementary School site in fall 2014.

### How was the receiving school chosen?

We considered the state of the facility, availability of space and the building's proximity to students who currently attend Mamie D. Lee and Sharpe Health. More than 50 percent of students at both schools live in Wards 7 and 8. River Terrace is located in Ward 7 and has direct access to downtown DC. The current River Terrace site has significant outdoor space, allowing opportunities for outdoor classrooms, garden space and appropriate play spaces. The facility is ideal for a modernization that will provide an appropriate space for students and allow for more robust programming.

### What benefits will there be for the students at the new facility school?

The transition will benefit students from both schools, as the renovated facility will enable the school to build stronger student supports and programming needed to provide high-quality educational opportunities.

### How will DCPS support the transition?

The Office of Special Education will develop and implement a plan to effectively transition the students from Sharpe Health and Mamie D. Lee to the new site. Depending on identified needs, other DCPS staff and representatives of city agencies will also provide support. DCPS is working with local parent resource groups to ensure that parents are appropriately engaged in the process. School-based LEA representatives will also work closely with families to support them through this process.

### What other school options do I have for the next school year?

For individual students the proposed new school may not be appropriate. In these cases, the Office of Special Education will work with schools to find an appropriate placement.

### What will happen to the school buildings?

DCPS is exploring the possibility of partnering with a local high-performing charter school, at the Sharpe building, to help reduce non-public placements. We hope to work with the community to identify uses for the Mamie D Lee building that will benefit the children and families of that neighborhood.